

STATE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF IOWA

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The Annals of Iowa

Volume 59 | Number 1 (Winter 2000)

pps. 105-105

The Collected Short Works, 1920-1954

ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

"The Collected Short Works, 1920-1954." *The Annals of Iowa* 59 (2000), 105-105.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.10342>

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portant to the dawn of professional football" (393). According to McClellan, the rise of professional football was fueled by love for the game and civic pride, not the search for profits. The historical origins of the upper Midwest's love affair with professional football are well chronicled in *The Sunday Game*.

The Collected Short Works, 1920–1954, by Bess Streeter Aldrich, edited by Carol Miles Petersen. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1999. xviii, 321 pp. Notes. \$45.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY CHERYL ROSE JACOBSEN, WARTBURG COLLEGE

Bess Streeter Aldrich, popular short story writer and novelist in the first half of the twentieth century, is best known for her focus on mid-western small-town life—those aspects that affirm the values of family solidarity, hard work, friendship, and continuity. In *The Collected Short Works, 1920–1954*, editor Carol Petersen has selected 31 short pieces from the last half of Streeter's career that were originally published in popular magazines.

Petersen provides brief introductions to the short stories and essays, highlighting Streeter's typical themes, characters, or publishing records—elements Petersen explored in her critical biography, *Bess Streeter Aldrich: The Dreams Are All Real* (1996). What emerges in Streeter's writing is a nostalgia for a simpler and safer time. Despite the vagaries and idiosyncrasies of some of Streeter's characters, they are uniformly good people who, eventually, receive just rewards in their lives. For example, in "It's Never Too Late to Live," the widow of a miserly man overcomes her bitterness with the purchasing and sharing of a few simple articles with an orphan girl. In other stories, romance is discovered and rediscovered, the elderly are not neglected, and girls and boys have small daily adventures. Several pieces are set in Streeter's hometown of Cedar Falls, Iowa, including essays on Streeter's life, pioneer heritage, and the craft of writing.

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